# First Congregational
## United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

**An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice**

**July 9, 2023**
**10:00 am**

**“ Chosen Journeys”**
**“A New Dawn - Making All Things New”**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, You are welcome here!**

**WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:45am Sunday morning.**

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234**

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
## First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

**RINGING THE BELL** — **MARTY KLEINO**

**PRELUDE** — *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud — **JOSHUA CATANIA**

**"Like a Rock"**
Linnea Good/Keri K. Wehlander

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** — **MARTY KLEINO**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.
- **Melanie Harner,** Zoom Host, will introduce folks participating in worship.
- Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
- Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

**GATHERING HYMN** — *Microphone muted — **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

**"You Are Welcome Here"**
**26 SING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** — *Unison with microphones muted — **MARTY KLEINO**

**Wellspring of Joy, overflow our lives with hope.**
**In this time of worship, may we drink deeply of your refreshing welcome.**
**Wash away our weariness.**
**Feed us with your word.**
**Lighten the burden of cares that weigh upon us.**
**May we carry your welcome into the world,**
**Bearing the face of Christ to those we meet. Amen.**

**HYMN** — *Microphone muted — **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

**"We Are Called to Follow Jesus"**
**36 ES**

## LISTENING FOR GOD

**FIRST READING** — **Matthew 11:28-30** — **MARTY KLEINO**

**SECOND READING** — **A Place to Rest** — **PATTY SHEWOOD**

**HYMN** — *Microphone muted — **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

**"Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Ways"**
**465 NCH**

**MORNING MESSAGE** **"A New Dawn - Making All Things New"**

**REV. DR. KAREN GEORGIA THOMPSON**
General Minister & President, United Church of Christ
Messages shared at 34th UCC General Synod

## CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Pause Zoom recording **PATTY SHERWOOD**
*Microphones muted

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

**PASTORAL PRAYER** *Restart Zoom recording

**DISCIPLES' PRAYER** *Unison with Microphone muted **PATTY SHERWOOD**

**When we yearn for your call, God of the Ages,**
**our expectations sometimes block the message.**
**Open us to the ways in which your call is made plain.**
**Help us pay attention to your call**
**revealed in what is happening all around.**
**Call us and then join us on our journey of discipleship. Amen.**

Use this moment of silence to offer your own prayers.

## OFFERING

**INVITATION TO OFFERING** **PATTY SHERWOOD**

God's gift in Jesus reminds us, what is entrusted to us is meant to be shared.
May the joy we discover in God's word be passed on through our generous giving.

**Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly**

**Checks can be mailed to:**
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**
**PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

***Thank you for your generosity!***

**OFFERTORY** **"Blessed Assurance"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
Fanny Crosby

**DOXOLOGY** *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

**"Take My Gifts" v 2, 562 NCH**

*Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,*
*Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,*
*Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,*
*Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief***.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *Unison with Microphone muted **PATTY SHERWOOD**

**With these gifts, we seek to be like you:**
**Creating a world where love is known,**
**Sharing the goodness of beauty and kindness,**
**Blessing our neighbors with our faith in action.**
**Bless these gifts and may they be a sign of our co-creating ministry in your name.**
**Amen.**

## DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

**CLOSING HYMN** *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

**"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"**
**489 NCH**

**BENEDICTION** *Microphone muted *Responsive **MARTY KLEINO**

Leader: In the name of the Maker

**People: We go.**

Leader: In the name of Jesus

**People: We go.**

Leader: In the name of the Holy Spirit

**People: We go.**

Leader: We go in wonder

**People: We go in Hope and Love. Amen**

**POSTLUDE** **"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
Robert Lowry

**PASSING THE PEACE** **FRIENDS GATHERED**

***Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

**Zoom Only Sunday Worship 10:00 am**

**Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director**
**Joshua Catania, Accompanist**
**Jenn Zibbell, MID Ministry Intern**
**Marty Kleino & Patty Sherwood, Liturgists**

**YPSILANTI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
**Worship Address:**
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Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**Mailing Address:**
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734-482-6980
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**ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN**

- **Cover Art:** Mantas Hesthaven in *unsplash.*
- **Call to Worship:** Wetaskiwin Writers in *gathingworship.ca*.
- **2nd Reading:** Jan A. Richardson, *A Place to Rest,* Edited by Martha Sponge
- **Disciples Prayer:** Beth W. Johnston, in *gathingworship.ca*
- **Prayer of Dedication:** Wendy MacLean in *gatheringworship.ca*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Donna Eyster, 734-780-5857.**

**Today's message** are excerpts from vision and thoughts of the **United Church of Christ newly elected General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson.** Her comments are particularly informative as, moving forward, we work to put our Mission-Vision-Values statements into practice. More about Rev. Thompson can be found later in this bulletin.

**Thank you, Rev. Jeanette Sherrill,** for leading conversation this morning before worship identifying the hopes and dreaming for the future of our beloved faith community.

**Worship Next Week: Zoom Host & Liturgist, Tad Wysor; Message, More from Rev. Karen Thompson** and her address to the 34th UCC General Synod.

**Worship moving forward:**

- **July 23rd – Rev. Nancy Rohde**
- **July 30th - Rev. Leann Seito**

**Opening worship in its entirety from General Synod** has been recorded and will be used for worship at a later date. The message was ***The Water Is Coming,*** Jamar Doyle, President/CEO, UCC Council for Health & Human Services.

**Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson** was born in Kingston, Jamaica, she immigrated to New York City as a teenager, eventually graduating from Brooklyn College. She later obtained a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina Central University and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York. She received her Doctorate in Ministry from Seattle University, **publishing her dissertation** on the multiple religious traditions practiced by African Caribbean people.

"I am the descendant of people who were brought from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Ghana into the Americas as enslaved people," Thompson said to the board prior to its vote. "I stand before you today because they believed and knew we are more than we were declared by those who deemed them to be less than human. I stand before you today carrying the wisdom they bore as healers, seers, spiritualists and interpreters of dreams. I am here because my parents who did not have as much as a high school education sent me to school and believed I could be more than they could be.

"She explained that her interlocking identities as a Black woman, an African descendant, a Jamaican immigrant, a poet and a public theologian all are central to Thompson's life, work and ministry.

Thompson has served in the National Setting for more than a decade. Prior to **her election as AGM in 2019**, she was Minister for Racial Justice, then Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. In those positions, she helped foster "Sacred Conversations on Race," implement the **A.C.T. Now to End Racism** initiative and promote racial justice and ecumenical relations on a global scale.

Before her national service, Thompson was Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery for the **Florida Conference**. And before that, she became the first female pastor of African descent in the Conference when she was called to the new-start, 15-member New Hope UCC in DeLand, Fla.

The congregation rented space from the local synagogue," she recalled to the board. "Those 15 people were more like three to five in weekly attendance. Every Sunday, the hymnals, the large church Bible, the large wooden cross, the sound system and the keyboard were packed into the back of my car and taken to their places in the synagogue for Sunday worship."

That local church ministry, she explained, informs her work now as a UCC leader.

"I am a pastor," Thompson said. "My experience of 19 years ago is not far removed from those of our pastors today. Bi-vocational realities compete with quality of life and the ability to nurture self-care and attend adequately to the needs of family. Our small churches are still struggling along with rural churches and new churches."

On March 13, 2022,the Unit ed Church of Christ central offices relocated to smaller space in Cleveland, Rev. Thompson read her poem "from this place" during the **farewell service** for the Amistad Chapel and the Church House. The poem's final lines proclaim that, **amid a time of transition, God's people are *guided by God / who is always with us / our hopes for the future surpassing our memories of the past.***

## OUR MINISTRIES

### HOLY GROUNDS AND TEA FOR THE SOUL

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night challplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee that is roasted by local Michigan companies. Tea and single packaged candy or snacks are also welcome. Please contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com or 517-240-8413.

### IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

*To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.*

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

**WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION**

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

*WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.*

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

# You Are Welcome Here

♩=100
G D G A D G/D D G A
You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,
G A D G D C G A
no mat-ter where you are_ on life's jour - ney._ You are
D G/D D G A G A
wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,_ come and
D G D G A D
1. 2. 3.
join with us,_ we're u - ni-ted in the church of_ Christ.__
A G D A D G D
1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
3. Lift - ing each oth - er;_ do-ing what's right; stand-ing to-geth-er, what-ev-
G A A G D A D
- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple_ and you be - long,
- ior of all._ We find God's mer - cy;_ we find re - lease,
- er may come; prais-ing our Sav - ior,_ shin-ing our light,
G A G/D D
4.
share in the joy_ of_ Christ.__ You are
shar-ing the joy_ of_ Christ.__ You are
shar-ing the joy_ of_ Christ.__ You are

Words and Music: Gerard DeMan, Copyright ©2007. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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# We Are Called to Follow Jesus

Words and music by
Jim Strathdee

Guitar capo: 1 play: Em

Fm (Em) Db (C) Eb (D) Ab (G) Bbm7 (Am7)

1. When pain of the world sur- rounds us with dark - ness
2. We see with fear and trem- bling our ach- ing
3. The church is a ho - ly ves - sel the liv - ing
4. We praise you for our jour - ney and your a -

Eb (D) Ab (G) Cm (Bm) Fm (Em) Bbm (Am)

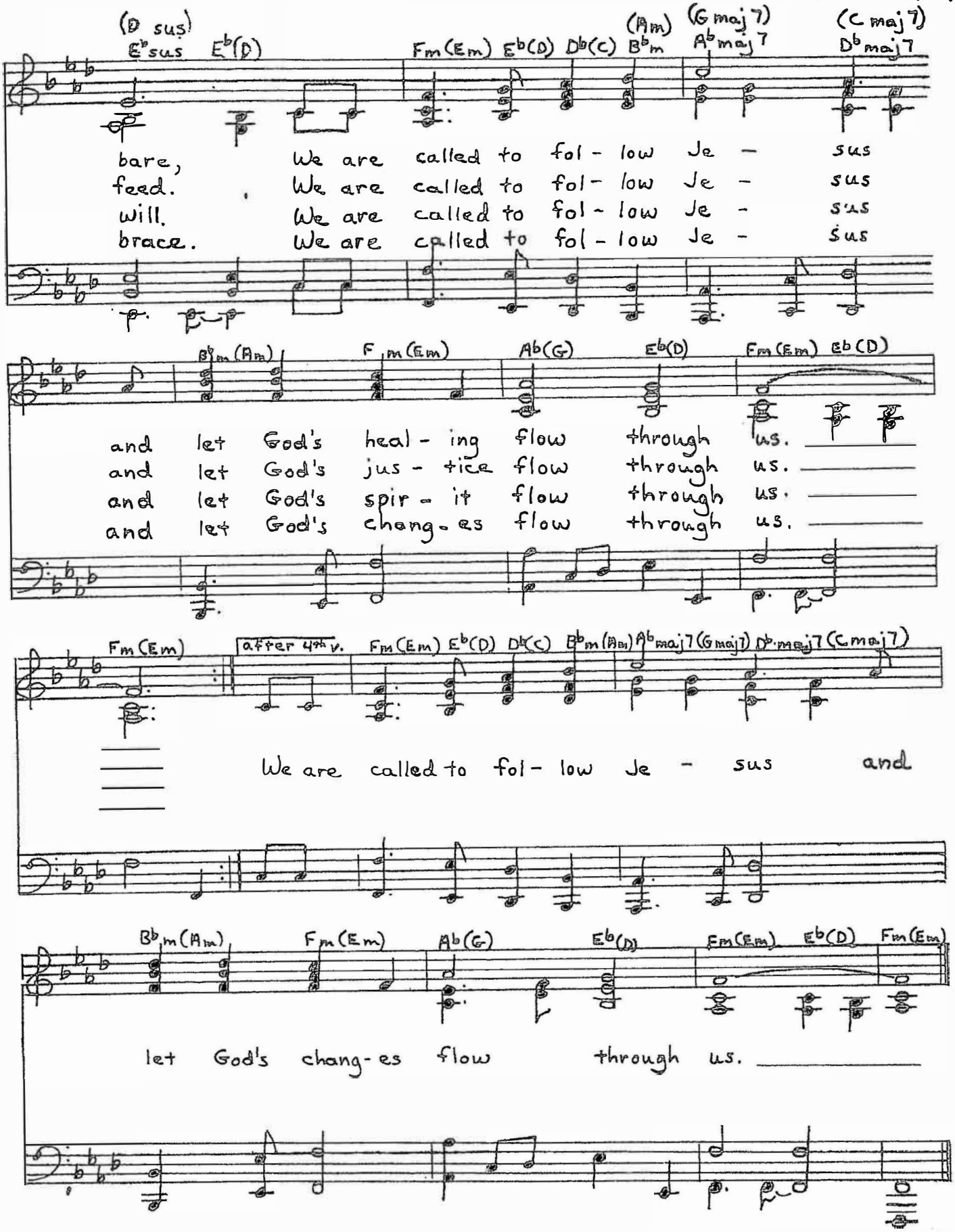
and de - spair, When search-ing just con- founds
world in need, Con- fess - ing to each oth -
wa - ters fill To nour- ish all its peo -
bun - dant grace, Your sav- ing word that guid -

Eb (D) Fm (Em) Ab (G) Bbm (Am) Cm (Bm)

us with false hopes ev - 'ry - where, When
er our waste - ful - ness and greed. May
ple God's pur - pose to ful - fill. May
ed a strug - gling hu - man race. O

Ab (G) Eb (D) Dbmaj7 (Cmaj7) Bbm (Am)

lives are starved for mean - ing and des - ti - ny is
we with stead - fast car - ing the hun - gry chil - dren
we with hum - ble cour - age be o - pen to God's
God, with all ere - a - tion, your fu - ture we em -


(D sus) Eb sus Eb(D) Fm(Em) Eb(D) Db(C) (Am) Bbm (Gmaj7) Abmaj7 (Cmaj7) Dbmaj7
bare, We are called to fol - low Je - sus
feed. We are called to fol - low Je - sus
will. We are called to fol - low Je - sus
brace. We are called to fol - low Je - sus
Bbm(Am) Fm(Em) Ab(G) Eb(D) Fm(Em) Eb(D)
and let God's heal - ing flow through us.
and let God's jus - tice flow through us.
and let God's spir - it flow through us.
and let God's chang - es flow through us.
Fm(Em) after 4th v. Fm(Em) Eb(D) Db(C) Bbm(Am) Abmaj7(Gmaj7) Dbmaj7(Cmaj7)
We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
Bbm(Am) Fm(Em) Ab(G) Eb(D) Fm(Em) Eb(D) Fm(Em)
let God's chang - es flow through us.

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# 465 Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

*William Matson, 1866; alt.*

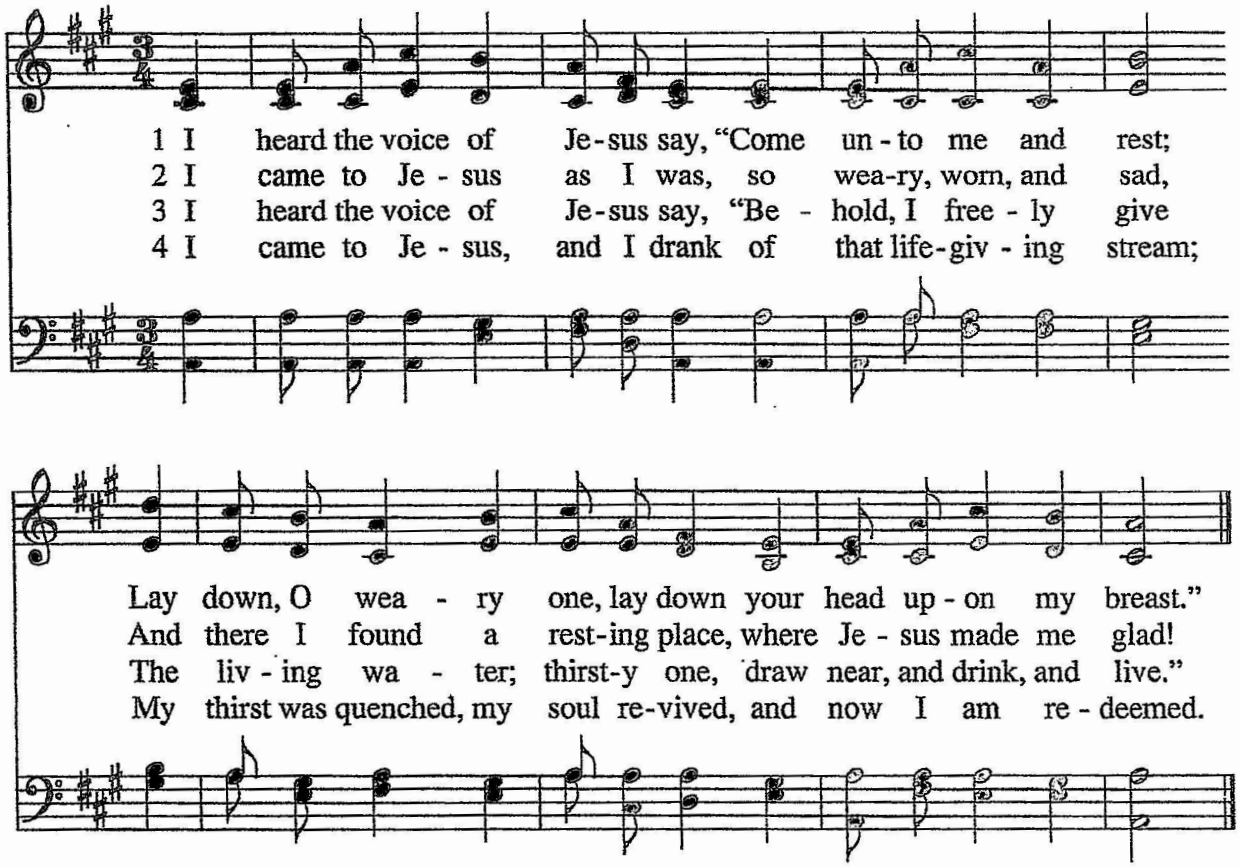
1 Teach me, O Lord, your ho - ly way,
2 Help me, O Sav - ior, here to trace
3 Guard me, O Christ, that I may ne'er
4 Bless me in ev - ery task I face,
and give me an o - be - dient mind,
the sa - cred foot - steps you have trod;
for - sake the right, or do the wrong;
be - gun, con - tin - ued, done for you;
That in your ser - vice I may find
and ful - ly trust - ing in my God,
A - gainst temp - ta - tion make me strong,
Ful - fill your will in all I do,
my heart's de - light from day to day.
to grow in good - ness, truth, and grace.
and keep me in your shel - tering care.
and grant me your a - bun - dant grace.

*William Matson, English poet and Congregational minister, wrote a poem of 321 four-line stanzas titled "The Inner Life" (1866). This hymn of obedience to Christ has been drawn from that extended poem.*

Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M.
*Anon.*
*Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790*

# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say 489

*Horatius Bonar, 1846; alt.* *Matt. 11:28–30; John 4:7–15; 8:12*


1 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un-to me and rest;
2 I came to Je-sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad,
3 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give
4 I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream;
Lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."
And there I found a rest-ing place, where Je-sus made me glad!
The liv-ing wa-ter; thirst-y one, draw near, and drink, and live."
My thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I am re-deemed.

5 I heard the voice of Je-sus say,
"I am this lost world's Light,
Look un-to me; your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."

6 I looked to Je-sus, and I found
my guid-ing Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll go
till trav-eling days are done.

*Horatius Bonar was one of the founders of the Free Church of Scotland. A man of wide scholarship and great devotion to his ministry, he wrote nearly one book a year, as well as some 600 hymns.*

Tune: EVAN C.M.
*William H. Havergal, 1847*
*Arr. Lowell Mason, 1850*
*Alternate tune: KINGSFOLD*
*(Pair stanzas 1–2, 3–4, 5–6)*